

# Human Relations News

from the

Newark group relations, Mayor's Commission on

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## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

May-June 1962

### Anthony Returns to Post Hayes Leaves for County

Mr. Daniel S. Anthony, Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission, returned to his post this month. Mr. Anthony, a recipient of one of the six Urban Studies Fellowships awarded by the Ford Foundation, has been on leave for nine months at the Urban Studies Center, located at Wood Lawn on the Douglas Campus in New Brunswick, N. J.

Mr. Anthony's absence was felt while he was on leave and the Commission, staff, and many friends and organizations with which we work are very pleased and happy to have him with us again.

Mr. Charles J. Hayes, a Research Assistant and Field Worker for the Commission, recently resigned to take a post as probation officer with the Essex County Probation Department.

We all miss Mr. Hayes, who was appointed to the post on the Commission in June, 1961, and we wish him the best of luck in his new position.

### HAPPY VACATION

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations wishes you and your associates a very enjoyable summer and may the plans and goals you have set for your fall program become a reality.

### Clergy Representing Three Denominations In Newark to Work With Commission



The Mayor's Commission, with the cooperation of the Clergymen in Newark, will be evaluating the role of the Church in our growing City.

The major concerns are: the human element in urban planning; adequate middle income housing; the improvement of public education; and the role of the Church, as the spiritual and moral foundation in the community, in all of these areas.

The Clergy Advisory Council, created May, 1961, is made up of representatives of the three major denominations in the City. The purpose of this group is to aid the Mayor's Commission in its efforts to educate and eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

For the past few months the Steering Committee of the Council has been exploring some of the problems and groping with ways of finding solutions.

Members of the Committee are: Magr. Vincent P. Coburn of St. Bridget's Church; Rev. Claude C. Kilgore, the 13th Ave. Presbyterian Church; Rev. Philip T. McCabe, St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory; Rev. Thomas J. Carey, Queen of Angels Church; Rev. Homer J. Tucker, Mt. Zion Baptist Church; Rabbi Israel E. Turner, Adas Israel and Mishnages Congregations; Rev. Wendell Mapson, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church; Rev. E. L. Blake, St. James A.M.E. Church; and Rev. J. Sanford Lonsinger, Third Presbyterian Church.

## EDITORIAL

The effect of housing and community environment on the physical, moral, economic and psychological well-being of an individual and of families makes housing and city planning a subject of major importance to the field of Human Relations.

Today we hear much talk about urban renewal which to the city planners, means rehabilitation, conservation, and clearance. But to a great majority of the people affected, urban renewal means (as one writer puts it) urban removal; removal to whatever spot that can be found to house a family of four, five, or six, and in some instances, more than six.

We in America have made great strides in so many areas, but we still have not learned to live together. Man has failed to solve problems in human relations which seemingly, in light of his ingenuity, should not have defeated him.

As a result of this failure, housing is the one commodity that minority groups and other ethnic groups have not been able to purchase freely re-

gardless of the income.

At one time minority groups were unable to secure decent, good paying jobs because they did not have the requirements necessary to qualify for such positions. Since World War II conditions have changed and more members of minority groups have been able to take advantage of educational opportunities previously closed to them. The result of this was higher paying jobs.

Many doors have been open, but the door to a comfortable decent, livable house is still closed. In most cases the door remains closed until a complaint is made and the case is brought before the court.

Nobody knows when and where it will all end, but until we all realize that people are human, regardless of color, religion or creed the fight will continue. People work to live and to enjoy some of the comforts of life—housing is one of these comforts.

## New Jersey Supreme Court Rules in Public Housing

The New Jersey Supreme Court recently ordered that a home must be sold to a Negro, in a publicly-aided housing development.

In the civil rights case, the court upheld an order directing Haridur Realty Corp. of New York to sell a home to Ermon K. Jones, a Neptune Negro, at the company's all-white Asbury Gables, a Neptune development.

The vote was 7-0 to affirm a Superior Court order that a home be sold to Jones, a field engineer at Ft. Monmouth, and his wife, a teacher in Neptune's public school system. Jones had won a ruling from State Education Commissioner Frederick M. Raubinger against the development in the Civil Rights Division.

Basic elements in the case were the same as those in the Levittown, N. J. case in which the court ruled three years ago against Levitt and Sons, but that case was a test of the constitutionality of the 1957 New Jersey law barring discrimination in publicly-assisted housing, while this was a victory through the state's court system by

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

## Addonizio Elected Mayor Bernstein Giuliano Villani In

The citizens of Newark chose a new mayor in the Municipal election held in May. Mayor Leo P. Carlin, who was seeking his third term, lost to Congressman Hugh J. Addonizio. Mayor-elect Addonizio is completing his seventh consecutive term in the House of Representatives.

Others re-elected to the city council are: North Ward Councilman, Joseph Melillo; East Ward Councilman, Philip E. Gordon; West Ward Councilman, Frank Addonizio; Central Ward Councilman, Irvine I. Turner. South Ward incumbent, Mrs. Sophie L. Cooper, lost to Lee Bernstein, a newcomer in politics.

Among the councilmen-at-large elected were former Mayor Ralph A. Villani, and Anthony A. Giuliano, former County Clerk. Re-elected were Michael A. Bontempo and John A. Brady.

The Mayor's Commission wishes to thank the Carlin Administration for the help and support given during the past years. To Mayor-elect Addonizio and the City Council, who take office July 1, we pledge our support and co-operation as we strive, together with the various city departments and agencies and other civic organizations, to reduce and eliminate prejudices and discrimination in our City.

## Commission For Jersey City

The staff and chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations recently met with Jeremiah O'Callaghan, director of the department of investigations of Jersey City, and Detective Robert Clark, the assistant to the director, to discuss the Commission and its role in the City of Newark.

Mr. O'Callaghan, an attorney, stated that Jersey City is contemplating setting up a similar commission of its own. Mayor Gangemi of that city authorized the study of the Commission's activities after a request was made by Fred Martin, Councilman of the Bergen-Lafayette Ward.

The discussion covered the procedures for selecting members of such a commission; its staff, functions, problems and results of the work of the Commission since its inception.

## New Housing Group Formed In Essex County

A Fair Housing Committee for Essex County was established recently at a conference held in Bloomfield, N. J.

Rev. Alexander H. Shaw, General Secretary of the N. J. Council of Churches said the Committee will set up a clearing house to help minority groups find adequate housing and contact those who would welcome such families into their neighborhoods.

The Committee will also work to strengthen the state's anti-discrimination laws. The third function of the Committee will be to set up a public education program.

Herbert H. Tate, former Republican Assemblyman from Essex County, and sponsor of legislation against discrimination, was the principal speaker.

Mr. Tate, a sponsor of the Fair Housing Conference, recommended a multi-point action program in housing. He urged residents of all neighborhoods not to sell their homes when members of minority groups move in.

## Clinton Hill Neighborhood Holds Annual Conference

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council recently prepared a nine-point program at its seventh annual conference, emphasizing improved housing, schools, and recreation.

Guest speaker for the Conference was Rev. Henry J. Browne, a Catholic priest who is president of the Stryker Bay Neighborhood Council on Manhattan's West Side. Father Browne referred to his area's experiences with urban renewal.

The impact of the West Side Urban Renewal project on the area, which runs from 87th to 97th Streets on the West Side and has a population comprised principally of Puerto Ricans and Negroes, was described by Father Browne.

The nine-point program of operation, which will be submitted to the officers of the Clinton Hill Council, contained the following resolutions.

(1) To seek the support of Mayor-elect Hugh J. Addonizio for a program of building and health code enforcement;

(2) To ask for more foot patrolmen for the area and brighter street lights;

(3) To continue efforts to persuade the Board of Education to build a new full size elementary school in the neighborhood;

(4) To support the principle of non-profit middle income cooperative housing for the area;

(5) To support efforts of the NAACP and the Board of Education to end segregated school enrollments in Newark;

(6) To seek a meeting with police and recreation officials and ask for closed play streets in summer to replace playground space lost by enlargement of the Bergen, Avon, and Belmont-West Runyon Schools;

(7) To support financially existing recreational programs such as the YMCA summer fund program;

(8) To continue opposition to relocation of tavern and liquor stores in the area as a result of the Clinton Hill urban renewal project.

(9) To seek reactivation by the City of the Tenant-Landlord Relations Committee set up two years ago under the

(Continued on page 4, column 2)



Scholarship Recipients (left to right) sitting: Mrs. Green, Miss Hutchins, Mrs. Booker. Standing: Mr. Parham, Mr. Feldman, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Bogner, Rev. Jefferson. Not pictured, Mrs. Josephson and Mr. Sirlin.

## Ten Scholarships Given By Mayor's Commission

For the past several years, the Mayor's Commission, in cooperation with the State Commission on Civil Rights, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Rutgers University, has awarded scholarships to the two one-week Workshops on Human Relations at the Douglass Campus of Rutgers University.

The purpose of this program is to train community leaders in the field of Human Relations. This year the Commission awarded ten scholarships. The recipients are: Jacob Feldman, Director of the Group Work and Recreation division of the Council of Social Agencies, Newark, Irvington and West Hudson; Rev. Kinmonth Jefferson, Urban Community Relations Minister of Trinity Methodist Church, Newark; Mrs. Sylvia Josephson, Tenant Relations Division of the Newark Housing Authority.

Johnny Parham, Community Services Secretary of the Urban League of Essex County; and Herman Sirlin, Assistant Planner of the Newark Planning Board. These five recipients will attend the Workshop on Modern Trends

in Inter-group Relations from July 22 to July 28.

The following recipients will attend the Workshop on Community Leadership Relations: Mrs. William Bogner, Board Member and District Chairman of the Greater Essex County Council, Girl Scouts of America; Mrs. Mattie Booker, President of the Felix Fuld Tenants Association and community leader; Mrs. Louise Green, teacher in the Newark Public School system; Adolph Holmes, Industrial Relations Secretary of the Urban League of Essex County; and Miss Ivory Hutchins, Assistant Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission. This Workshop will be in session from July 15 to July 21.

## Are You Receiving Your Mail?

For the last month the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations has been in the process of bringing its mailing list up to date. If your address is still listed incorrectly, or if you are receiving our publications, but wish to discontinue, please contact us at Room 214 City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey.

## Study Shows Light Industrial Park Unwarranted

The proposed light industrial project in the Clinton Hill area was termed unjustified in relation to that area's needs and Newark's employment and industrial situation. The findings were part of a report released (recently) at a meeting of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council.

The report was prepared for the Clinton Hill group by Walter Thabit, a New York planning consultant. The study finds that "the legitimate demand for industrial land in the Clinton Hill areas is so low that the allocation of more than a third of the area for industrial purposes seems highly questionable."

The report points out that the industrial park would displace 17,000 people, two-thirds of whom are non-white, and that the proposed north-south freeway along the eastern boundary of the site would displace 7,500 additional families.

The study finds that an industrial park in the Clinton Hill-Central Ward area has no advantages over several others in the city, such as the Doremus Avenue property of the Pennsylvania Railroad or the Newark meadows.

The report suggested splitting up the 240-acre tract into segments for smaller-scale redevelopment after a community renewal study could be completed, showing the best arrangement for use of the land.

"No subsequent proposal for designation of the Clinton Hill area should be made before the north-south expressway and Route 78 proposals have been fully considered and final decisions made," the report said.

It declared that the blight designation on the Clinton Hill area should be removed until a study of industrial space needs for the city is completed and the rights of existing industry to remain have been protected.

The 74-block area bounded by Bergen Street and Belmont, 17th and Watson Avenues was declared blighted last November 28th by the Central Planning Board and the City Council.

Legal action to set aside the blight declaration was instituted by seven Clinton Hill residents last December 15th. Daniel Lubetkin, attorney for the residents, filed suit in Superior Court charging, among other things, that a substantial portion of the area is not blighted and that the boundaries were not determined by the condition of the buildings.

Named as defendants were the City of Newark, the Central Planning Board and the Newark Housing Authority. The case is due to be heard late in June.

(Reprint from *The Newark News*)

## Supreme Court

(Continued from page 2, column 2)  
a Negro on his specific complaint against a developer.

The state reportedly wanted such a case on record to implement its theoretical civil rights victory in the Levittown action.

On a new point raised by Haridor—that the anti-bias law infringes on property rights without due process—Justice John J. Francis' opinion said, "Enough was said . . . to indicate the court's thinking (in Levitt) and to point the way to the decision we now reach formally." Such a private right "is not absolute" and that it is "subject to the reasonable exercise of the police power," Justice Francis declared.

(Reprint from *The Newark News*)

## Annual Conference

(Continued from page 3, column 2)  
Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, to educate tenants and landlords to mutual responsibilities and the best care of property.

Mrs. Bertha L. Griffin is president of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council.

## SELECTED READINGS

Griffin, John Howard. **BLACK LIKE ME**. Houghton-Mifflin, 1961.

"The everyday experiences of a white man in the Deep South who darkened his skin through chemistry and lived the daily realities of race hatred and distrust encountered by the Negro is trying for a life with a dignified status as an equal."

Italoaloader, Ralph. **THE NEW LEADERS OF AFRICA**. Prentice-Hall, 1961.

"Timely and thorough research into the personalities of the present leaders of contemporary Africa; their blindfold of both white and black."

Sklar, George. **THE IDENTITY OF DR. FRAZIER**. Knopf, 1961. Fiction.

"The effects of a drunken spree on a successful Christian surgeon, who, during the course of his intoxication, reveals his feelings of anti-Semitism, offends his wife, a wealthy Jewess, and the Jewish Hospital medical staff where he works."

Tetens, T. H. **THE NEW GERMANY AND THE OLD NAZIS**. Random House, 1961.

"Germany's sectional intolerance and the hate-mongering of the recently released war criminals now being given heroes' welcomes; the retention of old beliefs of the Hitler era by the older Nazi-taught generation."

## Bill Transferring State Division On Civil Rights Postponed

A bill that has already been passed by the Assembly which would transfer the State Division on Civil Rights from the authority of the Commissioner of Education to that of the Attorney General has been postponed by the New Jersey Senate until November.

This bill is being supported by the New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing of which the Mayor's Commission is a member. It is believed that the transfer will result in better administration of the state's civil rights laws in employment, education, housing, and public accommodations.

The Committee has exerted heavy pressure to bring the bill to the Senate floor during its final session. However, it was impossible to secure enough votes to have the bill labeled an emergency measure.

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164